

Lincoln, Nebraska  
February 18, 2005

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL**  
***MEETING MINUTES***

---

The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, February 18, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members present:

Dr. Scot L. Adams  
William Burgess  
Catherine Cook  
Frank Goodroe  
Dr. Aileen Gruendel  
Julie Hippen  
The Honorable John P. Icenogle  
Joe Kelly  
Robert Lindemeier  
Jim McKenzie  
Mike Overton  
Senator John Synowiecki  
Kenneth J. Vampola  
Dave Wegner  
Senator Kermit A. Brashear, Chair

Members absent:

Harold W. Clarke  
The Honorable Karen B. Flowers

Council staff present:

Linda Krutz, Chief  
Julie L. Rogers

Others Present:

Robert Bell  
Ellen Brokofsky  
Jim Cole  
Kristin Coppola  
Shelly Dettmann  
Stu Dornan  
Howard Kensinger  
Frank Jenson  
Bernard Jones  
Steve King  
John Krejci  
Jim Pieper  
Kimberly Norton  
Chad Peterson  
Chris Peterson  
Simera Reynolds  
T. Hank Robinson  
Kathy Seacrest  
Kathy Shada-Marsh  
Ron Sorenson  
Derek Vaughn  
Frank Velinski  
Linda Wittmuss

## **CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME & OVERVIEW**

Chairperson Brashear called the Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and gave an overview of the meeting. Attendance is indicated above.

It was noted that this is the last meeting for two of the Council members—Harold Clarke and Ken Vampola. Clarke has taken a position as Director of Corrections for the state of Washington and Vampola has been appointed as county judge in the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 17, 2004, meeting stood approved as presented.

## **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FEE REPORT**

The Community Corrections Fee Report, prepared by Howard Kensinger of the Legislative Fiscal Office was reviewed.

## **TARGET POPULATION REPORT**

The standard Target Population Report was highlighted by Mike Overton of the Crime Commission. Overton also presented the overall offender population admissions for each district for 2003 and 2004. The 2003-2004 data included admissions to the Department of Correctional Services, jails (as a whole), probation, and parole.

## **TIMELINE**

The Timeline was approved as presented.

## **PENDING PROPOSALS**

Altering the Agenda, Dave Wegner would first present Probation's new fee proposal and Jim McKenzie would follow with any update on Parole's proposal.

## **PROBATION FEE PROPOSAL**

Dave Wegner, Probation Co-Administrator, presented Probation's proposal to develop a statewide response to the drugs—crime cycle. The Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) for Felony Drug Offenders program was detailed and discussed. (See attached "Concept Paper")

Scot Adams made the motion to approve Phase I of the SSAS program as it appears below. The motion was seconded by Bill Burgess and approved.

*A motion to approve the employment under Probation Administration of a program manager or consultant at an annualized cost of no more than \$70,000 to be appropriated from the fee funds of the Community Corrections Council and to conditionally approve of Probation's Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision for Felony Drug Offenders*

*program as presented in the minutes of the Community Corrections Council subject to the satisfactory completion of the legislative appropriations process as it relates to the authorization of the hiring of Probation personnel and the authorization of treatment monies, “satisfactory” being in the sole discretion of the Community Corrections Council.*

#### **PENDING PROPOSALS**

Jim McKenzie, Parole Administrator, withdrew the pending Parole proposal for utilization of fees. Based on Probation’s SSAS program, Parole will develop a new proposal to present at the next Council meeting.

#### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR FELONY DRUG OFFENDERS PILOT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT**

Linda Krutz, Council Chief, explained that no significant progress has been made in “flushing out” the specifics of the concept paper that was previously presented by HHS—a comprehensive system of assessment and treatment services for felony drug offenders. It was noted that Senator Kermit Brashear introduced Legislative Bill 539, which appropriates \$5.1 million to the Council for substance abuse treatment.

#### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORK TEAM UPDATED UNIFORM SUBSTANCE ABUSE ASSESSMENT**

Kathy Seacrest, Chairperson of the Substance Abuse Work Team (Work Team), Ellen Brokofsky, and T. Hank Robinson presented the Council with updated information developed by the Work Team. The information was described as works in progress.

Scot Adams moved to accept the Work Team’s information as outlined in the motion below. The motion was seconded by Catherine Cook and approved.

*A motion to reaffirm the Substance Abuse Work Team’s membership and it’s work product as presented in advance and reported to the Council to date as named herewith:*

*Model Process*

*4 Steps Components*

*Assessing Offenders for Substance Use*

*Curriculum for Substance Abuse/Criminal Justice Systems*

*Simple Screening Instrument sample*

*Risk Assessment Reporting Format sample*

*Justice Client Adult Substance Abuse Evaluation Required Format*

*Levels of Care*

*Team Members List*

*January 24 Meeting Minutes*

*The Work Team ought to report to the Council if, as, and when appropriate based upon their work product.*

## **STANDARDIZED MODEL ADOPTION BY THE SUPREME COURT**

Ellen Brokofsky and Frank Goodroe explained the Supreme Court's intent to adopt the Standardized Model by court rule. Talking points on the proposed rule were handed out. The process of this court rule creation was explained. It was requested that the Council approve or recommend the Standardized Model be adopted before the Court rule becomes effective.

Joe Kelly made *a motion to endorse the outlined concepts of the Standardized Model as described in the handout titled "Nebraska Supreme Court Proposed Rule: Regarding Nebraska's Standardized Model for the Delivery of Substance Abuse Services for Criminal and Juvenile Justice Offenders, 2005" and to communicate the endorsement to the Nebraska Supreme Court.* The motion was seconded by Ken Vampola and approved.

## **PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS**

Frank Goodroe described problem solving courts and their specialized court case calendars. Examples of problem solving courts include drug courts, domestic violence, d.u.i., family development, and mental health. The Court Administration's goal is to have at least two problem solving courts in each judicial district. The Court Administration received federal funding to establish a statewide court coordinator.

Assuming Legislative Bill 538 is successful, Goodroe will be submitting a proposal for funding six new problem solving court programs for adult offenders at \$60,000 to \$70,000 each.

Problem Solving Courts will again be an agenda item at a subsequent Council meeting to further consider this proposal.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Introduced bills were discussed. Senator Synowiecki presented and reviewed LB 611, which changes current provisions relating to appearance bonds. Also discussed was LB 538, the bill introduced on behalf of the Council.

## **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

John Krecji of the Criminal Justice Review noted his two greatest concerns. Those are 1) adequate funding needs to be zealously sought and secured for community corrections programming (including treatment), and 2) there is a great need to address the issue of those in prison not receiving mental health treatment that need it.

Stu Dornan, Douglas County Attorney, and Derek Vaughn, Deputy Douglas County Attorney, discussed "restorative justice" as well as the creation of a mental health court in Douglas County. Also, re-entry courts and more re-entry programs ought to be considered. Finally, Dornan reiterated that Douglas County is here to serve the Council to help in any way possible.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT**

Ken Vampola expressed his appreciation for serving on the Council.

Steve King announced that Bob Houston has been named the new director of the Department of Correctional Services.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is Friday, March 18, 2005, 9:00 a.m., in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Julie L. Rogers